Numb. 158

The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

Faciunt næ intelligendo, ut nihil intelligant. Ter.

From *Tuesday April* 11. to *Thursday April* 13. 1710.

From my own Apartment, April 12.

TOM *Folio* is a Broker in Learning, employed to get together good Editions, and ſtock the Libraries of great Men. There is not a Sale of Books begins till *Tom Folio* is ſeen at the Door. There is not an Auction where his Name is not heard, and that too in the very Nick of Time, in the Critical Moment, before the laſt deciſive Stroke of the Hammer. There is not a Subſcription goes forward, in which *Tom* is not privy to the firſt rough Draught of the Propoſals; nor a Catalogue printed, that doth not come to him wet from the Preſs. He is an univerſal Scholar, ſo far as the Title-Page of all Authors, knows the Manuſcripts in which they were diſcovered, the Editions through which they have paſſed, with the Praiſes or Cenſures which they have received from the ſeveral Members of the Learned World. He has a greater Eſteem for *Aldus* and *Elzevir*, than for *Virgil* and *Horace*. If you talk of *Herodotus*, he breaks out into a Panegyrick upon *Harry Stephans*. He thinks he gives you an Account of an Author, when he tells you the Subject he treats of, the Name of the Editor, and the Year in which it was printed. Or if you draw him into further Particulars, he cries up the Goodneſs of the Paper, extols the Diligence of the Corrector, and is tranſported with the Beauty of the Letter. This he looks upon to be ſound Learning and ſubſtantial Criticiſm. As for thoſe who talk of the Fineneſs of Style, and the Juſtneſs of Thought, or deſcribe the Brightneſs of any particular Paſſages; nay, tho they write themſelves in the Genius and Spirit of the Author they admire, *Tom* looks upon them as Men of ſuperficial Learning, and flaſhy Parts.

I had Yeſterday Morning a Viſit from this learned Idiot, (for that is the Light in which I conſider every Pedant) when I diſcovered in him ſome little Touches of the Coxcomb, which I had not before obſerved. Being very full of the Figure which he makes in the Republick of Letters, and wonderfully ſatisfied with his great Stock of Knowledge, he gave me broad Intimations, that he did not *believe* in all Points as his Forefathers had done. He then communicated to me a Thought of a certain Author upon a Paſſage of *Virgil*'s Account of the Dead, which I made the Subject of a late Paper. This Thought hath taken very much among Men of *Tom*'s Pitch and Underſtanding, tho' univerſally exploded by all that know how to conſtrue *Virgil*, or have any Reliſh of Antiquity. Not to trouble my Reader with it, I found upon the whole, that *Tom* did not believe a future State of Rewards and Puniſhments, becauſe *Æneas*, at his leaving the Empire of the Dead, paſſed through the Gate of Ivory, and not through that of Horn. Knowing that *Tom* had not Senſe enough to give up an Opinion which he had once received, that we might avoid wrangling, I told him, That *Virgil* poſſibly had his Overſights as well as another Author. Ah! Mr. *Bickerſtaff*, ſays he, you would have another Opinion of him, if you would read him in *Daniel Heinſius*'s Edition. I have peruſed him my ſelf ſeveral Times in that Edition, continued he; and after the ſtricteſt and moſt malicious Examination, could find but Two Faults in him: One of them is in the *Æneids*, where there are Two Comma's inſtead of a Parentheſis; and another in the Third *Georgick*, where you may find a Semicolon turned upſide down. Perhaps, ſaid I, theſe were not *Virgil*'s Thoughts, but thoſe of the Tranſcriber. I do not deſign it, ſays *Tom*, as a Reflection on *Virgil*: On the contrary, I know that all the Manuſcripts *reclaim* againſt ſuch a Punctuation. Oh! Mr. *Bickerſtaff*, ſays he, what would a Man give to ſee one Simile of *Virgil* writ in his own Hand! I asked him which was the Simile he meant; but was anſwered, Any Simile in *Virgil*. He then told me all the ſecret Hiſtory in the Commonwealth of Learning; of Modern Pieces that had the Names of ancient Authors annex'd to them; of all the Books that were now writing or printing in the ſeveral Parts of *Europe*; of many Amendments which are made, and not yet publiſh'd; and a Thouſand other Particulars, which I would not have my Memory burthen'd with for a Vatican.

At length, being fully perſwaded that I thoroughly admired him, and looked upon him as a Prodigy of Learning, he took his Leave. I know ſeveral of *Tom*'s Claſs who are profeſſed Admirers of *Taſſo* without underſtanding a Word of *Italian*; and one in particular, that carries a *Paſtor-Fido* in his Pocket, in which I am ſure he is acquainted with no other Beauty but the Clearneſs of the Character.

There

There is another Kind of Pedant, who, with all *Tom Folio*'s Impertinencies, hath greater Superſtructures and Embelliſhments of *Greek* and *Latin*, and is ſtill more intupportable than the other, in the ſame Degree as he is more learned. Of this Kind very often are Editors, Commentators, Interpreters, Scholiaſts, and Criticks; and in ſhort, all Men of deep Learning without common Senſe. Theſe Perſons ſet a greater Value on themſelves for having found out the Meaning of a Paſſage in *Greek*, than upon the Author for having written it; nay, will allow the Paſſage it ſelf not to have any Beauty in it, at the ſame Time that they would be conſidered as the greateſt Men of the Age for having interpreted it. They will look with Contempt upon the moſt beautiful Poems that have been compoſed by any of their Contemporaries; but will lock themſelves up in their Studies for a Twelvemonth together, to correct, publiſh, and expound, ſuch Trifles of Antiquity as a modern Author would be contemn'd for. Men of the ſtricteſt Morals, ſevereſt Lives, and the graveſt Profeſſions, will write Volumes upon an idle Sonnet that is originally in *Greek* or *Latin*; give Editions of the moſt Immoral Authors, and ſpin out whole Pages upon the various Readings of a lewd Expreſſion. All that can be ſaid in Excuſe for them, is, That their Works ſufficiently ſhow they have no Taſt of their Authors; and that what they do in this Kind, is out of their great Learning, and not out of any Levity or Laſciviouſneſs of Temper.

A Pedant of this Nature is wonderfully well deſcribed in Six Lines of *Boileau*, with which I ſhall conclude his Character.

Un Pédant enyvré de ſa vaine ſcience,
Tout heriſſe de Grec, tout bouffi d'arrogance,
Et qui de mille Auteurs retenus mot pour mot,
Dans ſa tête entaſſez n'a ſouvent fait qu'un Sot,
Croit qu'un Livre fait tout, & que ſans Ariſtote
La Raiſon ne voit goute, & le bon Sens radote.

Errata *in our laſt:* Col. 2. Line 40. *for* are, *read* is. Col. 3. L. 3. *dele* and. L. 12. *for* greater Number, *read* Generality. L. 72. *dele* to find out proper.

Advertiſements.

*** PROPOSALS for Printing the LUCUBRATIONS of Iſaac Bickerſtaff Eſq; by Subſcriptions, in Two Volumes in Octavo, on a Large Character, and Fine Royal Paper, are to be ſeen, and Subſcriptions taken, at Charles Lillie's, a Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, and John Morphew's near Stationers-Hall. All Perſons that deſign to ſubſcribe to this Work, are deſired to ſend in their Subſcriptions, the Book being put to Preſs, in order to be publiſh'd with all Expedition.

TO ſatisfy Gentlemen and Ladies who it is that would impoſe, in Relation to thoſe Men and Women's Gowns to be ſold at the Olive-Tree and Still at Charing-Croſs, advertis'd againſt in the Poſt-Man, with Invitation to Ludgate-Hill; If they pleaſe to enquire at any Shop on the ſaid Hill, they may be ſatisfy'd that there is not a Quarter of the Choice, as there is in the Room at Charing-Croſs; nor can they afford ſo good Pennyworths, becauſe upon Examination, theſe will be truly found to be the Goods of Perſons that failed.

THeſe are to acquaint all Lovers of Art, That Mr. Roſſe his Collection of Pictures, being of the moſt celebrated Maſters, will be ſold by Auction on Thurſday the 20th Inſtant, at Ten of the Clock, at his Houſe in Henrietta-ſtreet, Covent-Garden. The Pictures to be ſeen on Monday, Tueſday, and Wedneſday, before the Sale; where Catalogues will be given. After which, his Drawings, Prints, and other Curioſities, will be ſold by Auction.

*** There is juſt publiſhed, The Circe of Signior Giovanni Battiſta Gelli of the Academy of Florence; conſiſting of Ten Dialogues between Men transformed into Beaſts: Giving a lively Repreſentation of the various Paſſions, and many Infelicities of Human Life. Done out of Italian by Mr. Tho. Brown. The Second Edition. Sold by John Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Price 3 s. 6 d.

††† Next Week will be publiſhed, The compleat Hiſtory of Europe, or a View of the Affairs thereof, Civil and Military, for the Year 1709. Containing all the publick and ſecret Tranſactions therein; with many Original Papers, Letters, &c. not elſewhere to be met with: The Remarkables of the Year; with the Lives and Characters of all the eminent Perſons that died therein. With ſeveral Cuts and Maps. Printed for H. Rhodes near Fleet-Bridge, J. Nicholſon in Little-Britain, and A. Bell at the Croſs-Keys and Bible in Cornhil: Where may be had compleat Sets of the Hiſtory of Europe from 1600, in 14 Volumes.

*** This Day is publiſh'd, An Account of the Conduct of the Roman Catholick Clergy and Zealots of France, from the firſt Toleration there of the Proteſtants to their Expulſion. Proving hiſtorically, that thoſe Clergy and Zealots have been the Ruin of the ancient Conſtitution of Government in that Kingdom. Written and firſt publiſh'd in Jan. 1709. and ſince reprinted with ſome Additions. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers Hall.

*** Juſt publiſhed, A curious Print of the North-Eaſt Proſpect of St. Peter's Church in Rome, exactly deſcribing the Dome, &c. Printed on a Sheet of Imperial Paper; the like never ſeen in England. Sold by Henry Overton, Map and Print Seller, at the White Horſe without Newgate. Pr. 1 s.

*** The Propitiatory Oblation in the Holy Euchariſt truly ſtated, and defended from Scripture and Antiquity, and the Communion Service of the Church of England. In which ſome Notice is taken of Dr. Hancock's Anſwer to Dr. Hicks; and alſo of the Lord Biſhop of Norwich's Charge to his Clergy. Printed for J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall, and R. Thurlbourne in Cambridge.

*** Old Rome and London compared; the Firſt in its full Glory, and the Laſt in its preſent State. By which it plainly appears, that Lipſius and Voſſius are egregiouſly miſtaken in their over-ſtretched, fulſom, and hyperbolical Acount, of Old Rome: And that London, as it is at preſent, exceeds it much in its Extent, Populouſneſs, and many other Advantages. The 2d Edition. To which is added, a Compariſon between the Beauties, &c. of Old Rome and London. By a Perſon of Quality. Printed for J. Harding at the Anchor and Bible at the upper End of St. Martin's-lane in the Fields. Pr. 1 s. 6 d. bound; 1 s. ſtitch.

ON Friday the 14th of this Inſtant April, in Glouceſter-ſtreet, joining to St. George's Chapel by Red-Lion-Square, N°. 6. will be ſold by Auction an extraordinary Parcel of Houſhold Goods, belonging to a Lady that is leaving off Houſekeeping: Rich Beds and Bedding, fine Silk Window Curtains and Cuſhions, fine Cabinets and Desks, Looking-Glaſſes, fine Prints and Stove-Grates, and all Sorts of Kitchen-Ware. The Goods to be ſeen any Time before the Sale, and Catalogues to be had at the Place of Sale.

AT the Perpetual Office of the Charitable Society at London-ſtone for aſſuring Money upon Marriage, real Security is given, that for every 2 s. per Quarter you are admitted to pay, you gain from 40 l. to 400 l. when full. All have received hitherto from the Beginning above 20 for one, as may be ſeen by above 20 of their Receipts. The ſooner you enter, and the longer before Marriage, the more you will get; but the very lateſt cannot get leſs than all their Money back, and 150 per Cent clear Profit. Entry's from City and Country (Single and Double) are now above 1000, and the Shares have doubled in each of theſe 3 firſt Quarters, by which the Truth of the Propoſals is confirmed; each new married Perſon in this 3d Quarter having (for 6 s.) received 9 l. 15 s. as can be affirmed by a Gentleman of the Cuſtom-Houſe, who examined the Books for himſelf and all the reſt. The Particulars whereof will be added to the former printed Account of Dividends, &c. Sold by J. Morphew, and other Bookſellers. Price 1 d. by which all the above is explained.

A Pair of Mares about 15 Hands high, 5 Years old, fit for preſent Uſe for a Coach, to be ſold. Enquire at the Two Brewers in Monmouth-ſtreet, or at Mr. Simpſon's, a Woollen-Draper in the Strand, over-againſt York-Buildings.

*** Field's Bible, and all other Sorts and Sizes of Bibles and Common-Prayers, fit for Churches and Families, ruled or unruled, and in all ſorts of Binding, viz. Right Shagreen, red and blue Turkey, Ruſſia-Leather, &c. Mr. Sturt's Cuts, curiouſly engraven; with all other Sorts of Cuts, either for Bibles or Common Prayer Books; the Sacrament and Devotion, bound with the Common-Prayer or ſingle; Tate and Brady's new Pſalms, with the new Supplement; Burket on the New Teſtament, in Folio, the 4th and laſt Edition; the Lord Clarendon's Hiſtory of the Rebellion, &c. Winchester Manual; a new Britiſh Spelling-Book; Young's Spelling-Book; and Dr. Williams and Lewis's Catechiſm, for the Uſe of Charity-Schools, by Wholeſale or Retale, at reaſonable Rates. Caſes for Letters or Bills. Stains and Ink are likewiſe taken out of Books of Value, and Books neatly bound and gilt, by J. Hazard at the Golden Bible in Stationers-Court near the Hall within Ludgate.